



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 7, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: April 6, 2003
CWP WA-CW1403

Spring Wheat and Barley Seeding Made Progress Frost Control Implemented in Yakima County

Field Crops

Showers continued to improve moisture conditions but limited fieldwork. Christmas tree growers applied fertilizer in the rain. In Kittitas County, fields were prepared for irrigation. Wheat fields in Skagit County required helicopter applications of pesticides due to high soil moisture. In the east, winter wheat looked good and spring wheat and barley seeding has been progressing. Potato planting continued in Franklin County.

Livestock

Wool has been contracted and shearing was 30 percent complete in Grant County. Pastures were beginning to improve due to precipitation. Spring calving continued in Lincoln County, but was winding down. Range and pasture conditions were 9% poor, 66% fair, and 25% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Tree fruit continued to develop about five to ten days ahead of normal in Yakima County. Frost control was implemented across the Yakima Valley and damage was present but slight. Asparagus harvest was underway in Franklin County. Bud breaks in Concord grapes was about a week early in Benton County. Cold, windy days have been poor for tree fruit pollination. In Whatcom County, raspberry vines began to bud out. Also in the west, greenhouse tomatoes had rapid growth, daffodil harvest continued, and tulips started to bloom.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.2
Last Week	5.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	8	90	2
Subsoil	0	10	89	1
Irrigation Water	0	15	85	0
Hay & Roughage	0	8	91	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	39	27	37	37
Spring Wheat Emerged	9	3	13	11
Barley Planted	18	7	18	25
Barley Emerged	2	0	4	6
Potatoes Planted	18	5	22	17
Potatoes Emerged	6	0	4	2
Proc. Green Peas Planted	2	NA	2	2
Dry Peas Planted	1	NA	3	4

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	31	54	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	45	45	10
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	43	57	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	80	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Heavy rainfall and cold temperatures throughout the week severely limited agricultural activity. Soils throughout the county remained super saturated. Ag producers complained about the unseasonably wet spring which has resulted in a delayed planting season. Truck gardeners watched in awe as weeds continued to grow in fields that normally should have been plowed weeks ago. Christmas tree growers applied fertilizer in the rain. On a positive note, greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth and healthy vines. Daffodil harvest continued with early season tulips just beginning to bloom.

Pierce/S. King: Field conditions remained poor. The weather has been bad--with wind, rain, hail and snow in some places. There were no reports of crop damages due to any weather related conditions.

Skagit: Some wheat fields required helicopter applications of pesticides due to high soil moisture.

Thurston: Heavy rainfall and unseasonably cold temperatures throughout the week had most ag producers convinced that winter has returned. Snow accumulations were visible on the Black Hills and severe hailstorms pelted lower elevations. Soil conditions remained super saturated throughout the county. Weather conditions prevented almost any outside activity. Christmas tree growers applied fertilizer at the end of the week between showers. The Olympia Farmers Market officially opened for the year on Thursday, April 3, with lower than expected clientele due to the cold weather.

Whatcom: The weather has been cool and rainy the last couple of weeks. Raspberry vines began to bud out. The grass for silage will probably be cut in the next couple of weeks.

Central

Benton: Pruning was nearly complete. Bud breaks in Concord grapes was about a week early. Cold windy days have been very poor for tree fruit pollination.

Benton (2nd Report): Temperatures dropped into the 20's several nights during the week.

Kittitas: Farmers prepared ground for the first irrigation. Irrigation water supplies were predicted to be short for the growing season. Orchardists reported some losses due to the cold temperatures.

Okanogan/Ferry: Ranchers will be turning out livestock on spring pastures soon. On Saturday morning, April 5, the

county experienced some rain and scattered showers.

Yakima: Tree fruit continued to develop about 5 to 10 days ahead of normal. Frost control was implemented frequently during the week. Frost damage was present but slight. Bloom density was good in most locations but spotty in places. Dormants and delayed dormants were still going on in higher elevation blocks.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from 15 degrees above normal to 8 degrees below normal. Freezing temperatures caused significant frost control measures. No reports of crop losses due to the freezing temperatures have been received.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat remained in fair to good condition and spring seeding of wheat and barley were nearly complete. Moisture continued to be adequate.

Asotin/Garfield: Showers continued off and on throughout the week, making it difficult for farmers to continue with planting of spring crops. Crops and pasture's growth were slow due to the below normal temperatures.

Franklin: Temperatures were generally sunny and warm and windy at times. Asparagus harvest was underway. Potato planting continued. The alfalfa crop was making good growth.

Grant: Export hay was in short supply and feeder hay was abundant. Sweet corn planting was underway. Wool has been contracted and shearing was 30 percent complete.

Lincoln: Winter wheat remained in good to fair condition. Spring seeding of wheat and barley were just getting started throughout the county. Moisture conditions remained adequate.

Lincoln (2nd Report): More precipitation was received last week which added to an adequate supply previously received. Most of the winter wheat looked good. Warmer weather is needed to get crops growing. Spring wheat and barley

seeding has been progressing. Pastures were beginning to green up and improve due to the recent precipitation, but more precipitation is needed to offset past drought conditions. Spring calving continued but was winding down.

Stevens: During the past week the county experienced rain, snow, sleet, hail and wind. Warmer weather is needed to get crop and pasture growth started.

Walla Walla/Columbia: Frequent spring showers greatly benefitted crops. Cool temperatures slowed growth of pastures and rangeland as well as winter wheat crops. Overall conditions for Columbia and Walla Walla Counties have been favorable.

Whitman: Scattered rain and snow showers limited fieldwork most of the week. Winter wheat continued to look good and crop potentials for spring crops were favorable. Temperatures remained on the cold side most of the week, and pastures had limited plant growth. However, anticipated warmer temperatures next week should boost spring grazing conditions.

Whitman(2nd Report): Passing showers continued to improve moisture conditions but have made for a slow start for spring fieldwork.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 7, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	36	52	44	-2	0	-3	0	0	1.30	0.67	7	19.96	-7.29	73	103
Everett	35	55	43	-4	0	-7	0	0	0.76	0.03	7	20.50	-6.73	75	108
Hoquiam	32	53	43	-5	0	-7	0	0	2.41	1.13	7	54.55	-1.87	97	117
Kelso	34	57	45	-3	3	-4	0	0	1.18	0.27	7	20.24	-16.59	55	82
Olympia	29	58	43	-3	3	2	0	0	1.25	0.33	7	31.86	-10.39	75	112
Sea-Tac	34	55	44	-4	1	-6	0	0	0.96	0.31	7	27.51	-2.80	91	103
Shelton	29	57	42	-6	0	-7	0	0	1.44	0.25	7	49.04	-6.45	88	108
Tacoma	30	57	43	-4	2	-5	0	0	0.95	0.20	7	22.86	-9.31	71	99
Vancouver	34	60	46	-2	5	-2	0	0	0.84	0.10	7	28.51	-4.63	86	106
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	20	56	41	-4	1	-2	0	0	0.09	-0.05	2	7.08	0.33	105	65
Omak	22	66	43	1	8	8	0	0	0.01	-0.21	1	9.02	-0.51	95	47
Stampede Pass	23	39	30	-3	0	0	0	0	1.28	-0.10	5	51.93	-15.45	77	108
Wenatchee	29	63	45	-3	6	-4	0	0	0.14	0.00	1	7.36	1.32	122	60
Yakima AP	21	65	45	-2	10	3	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	6.64	0.59	110	41
NORTHEAST															
Colville	27	67	44	1	9	3	0	0	0.55	0.20	2	13.62	-0.95	93	51
Deer Park	26	60	40	-3	5	2	0	0	0.68	0.33	4	16.85	3.92	130	71
Spokane AP	28	59	41	-2	5	0	0	0	0.41	0.13	4	12.17	0.68	106	73
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	23	63	44	-5	4	-5	0	0	0.13	-0.01	1	6.67	1.34	125	42
Moses Lake	22	64	46	-2	8	-1	0	0	0.22	0.08	2	6.51	1.18	122	61
Quincy	23	73	47	0	14	6	0	0	0.09	-0.05	1	5.31	-0.47	92	43
Ritzville	26	71	44	-1	7	3	0	0	0.17	-0.04	4	9.31	1.07	113	65
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	24	69	47	-5	12	-9	0	0	0.21	0.08	2	6.36	1.36	127	54
Pasco	28	69	51	0	19	0	4	4	0.29	0.15	2	5.84	0.20	104	58
Pullman	30	56	41	-2	2	1	0	0	0.07	-0.35	1	8.00	-7.26	52	68
Whitman Miss.	27	82	49	2	17	5	4	4	0.85	0.57	5	11.59	1.84	119	93
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	70	44	0	11	8	1	1	0.24	-0.18	5	13.75	-4.60	75	69
Lewiston ID	32	76	48	1	19	5	5	5	0.17	-0.05	4	8.64	1.17	116	79

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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